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Blasphemer punish'd;

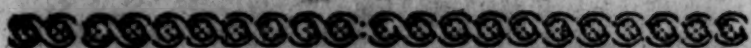
O R

A Warning-piece to YOUTH.

Being a true and particular Account of
William Jackson, a farmer, near Malton,
in Yorkshire, who was struck in all ap-
pearance dead, and continued so for three
days and three nights. With an account
of his recovering, and the Vision he saw
while in the Trance. Of an Angel meet-
ing him, and shewing him that place of
torment where all wicked sinners meet with
their punishment. Also the seat of bliss,
where the righteous enjoy eternal happiness,
and of his being ordered to publish these
things to the world. Concluded with a se-
rious exhortation to a godly life.

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December 25, 1781.



T H E BLASPHEMER PUNISHE'D.

OF all the many Sins which are daily practised in the world, that of swearing and blaspheming the holy name of the Almighty, is certainly one of the most terrible; for by Custom it gets so common, that it is used upon every trifling occasion, and becomes a part of our discourse; and what is most shocking, the very children learn it almost before their prayers: But it is to be hoped an amendment will soon take place, before we are called thereto by a terrible warning, of which the following is an instance.

Near Malton in Yorkshire lived one William Jackson, a Farmer, a Man of substance, but one that had got it by distressing the poor, and hoarding up corn, which he would rather suffer to spoil than sell at a reasonable price.

He



He was also a terrible blasphemer, swearing at every word, and taking a pride in inventing wicked oaths; but happening one night to be in company at John Taylor's, a public house in that neighbourhood and swearing in a shocking manner, he was suddenly struck black in the face, and fell down upon the floor, where he lay to all appearance dead.

He was directly taken home, and continued in that miserable condition for three days and three nights, his friends lamenting his sad end, having prepared every thing for his funeral; when all on a sudden he groaned terribly, which greatly terrified them, but taking courage, they put him into a warm bed, and giving him all necessary assistance, after some time he came to himself, and gave the following account.

In my Trance, said he, I saw a glorious person in Bright shining raiment, who taking me by the hand I thought we walked togetoer and entered a valey of a vast depth and breadth, the length seemed to have no end.

On one side there was terrible flashing flames, and on the other perpetual frosts with beating storms of hail and snow; and here the wicked were in a sad vicitude of change of torment, lamenting and howling but had none to pity them.

Passing on, it being exceedingly dark, unless sometimes enlightened by globes of fire that ascended violently out of a deep pit.

In this horrible place my guide withdrew himselfe from me, and I heard the rattling of mighty chains and some loudly roaring which I supposed to be evil spirits who had deceived and were now tormenting human Souls, and plunged them into the pit that cast out the fiery globes, some of which methout I had seen upon the earth, which made me bewail their misery, and tremble at what I might expect in that dismal place.

I heard the fiends cry aloud that they had deceived poor souls into their fiery mansions, O everlasting sorrow! and tell by what means they had tempted and drawn them to sin,

When several with flaming eyes, and noisome smoke came towards me, and to my affrightment caught at me; but when my guide appeared like a Star through the dismal gloom, they vanished.

I was glad of his coming, and he told me he had withdrawn himself to see what would become of me, and was glad my faith held out against such temptations, to secure me. Then we mounted in the air, and journeying towards the East, I beheld a mighty wall shining as sapphires of which I could see no end, and tho' it was exceeding high, by what means I know not, I soon found myself on the top of it.

On the other side there appeared the fairest country I ever had seen; fields cloathed with flowers fruits and blossom at once upon the trees, and a perpetual spring.

The inhabitants were in bright shining raiment, singing melodiously by purling streams and pleasant brooks, shaded with Almond trees, the brightness far exceeded our day, and the scents so fragrant as to make me forget the terrible place I had passed

passed, and delight to be here: but my guide hastened me thro' the throng of blessed Souls, who flocked about us with great harmony, into a far greater light, and a place far more glorious, where I saw visions unutterable, which made me meanly esteem what I had seen before, concluding this to be heaven, and fain would I have entered farther, but was told by my guide that I must return again to earth, and relate what I had seen, for the advantage of others and warn them to repent of their sins, for the day of the Lord was at hand, threatening woe to sinners, and joy to those that live uprightly in the world.



When he had thus spoken, I had an aversion for returning again, being highly delighted with the happy place I was in.

While I was thinking on these wonderful things I know not how, but I perceived I was alive again among men.

My conversation hereafter shall be quiet otherwise than formerly; and hereupon he burst into tears, to consider the danger he had escaped, and the joy he hoped for in another life.

It is to be hoped that the above account will put a stop to that most wicked and c-ying sin of blaspheming the Lords holy name and turn Men's thoughts to a sense of their duty, and what they owe to that Heavenly Being, who could crush us in an instant, and lay us that are impiously calling his holy name in puestion with the dust, to which we must one day return, and from thence arise to an everlasting state of happiness or misery. But certainly, when we reflect on the everlasting felicity which we have in our power to attain, we cannot hesitate one moment to be steadfast



in our duty, and earnest in our thanksgiving to the giver of all good things, not only for our future bliss, but for the innumerable blessings we every day receive at his hands, and for which we can never be too thankful.

Let us then think seriously of that day, which, as we improve or neglect our time, will make us partakers of that heavenly bliss from which we shall never return.

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